

## **Limited-Income Subsidy (LIS) Enrollment Opportunity**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced that Medicare beneficiaries who qualify after May 15, 2006 for the limited-income subsidy (LIS) available through the Medicare prescription drug program will have a one-time opportunity using a special enrollment period to enroll in the Medicare prescription drug benefit if they have not done so already.

This special enrollment period will enable these beneficiaries to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan right after they become qualified for the LIS, even if this is after May 15th. Medicare will also continue to facilitate enrollment in a drug plan for people who qualify for the LIS if they do not choose a plan on their own. This one-time enrollment for beneficiaries who qualify for the LIS is very different from extending the open enrollment period- it simply gives beneficiaries who are newly qualified for LIS a one-time opportunity to enroll when they qualify.

The extra help available through the LIS allows for comprehensive and valuable drug coverage— in most cases for just a few dollars for every prescription. CMS wants to make sure that people who need help the most can use this coverage just as soon as they become eligible.